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6th Suspect Identified in Bombing Of Trade Center; Others Reindicted

By Jim McGee
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Federal prosecutors in Manhattan yesterday released a new indictment that names a new suspect in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Reindicted in the superseding charge were Mohammed Salameh, 25; Nidal Ayyad, 25, and Mahmud Abohalima, 33. They were charged with a single count of causing the bombing, which killed six people, injured more than 1,000 and demolished an underground parking garage. They have pleaded not guilty and remain in custody.

The new suspect is, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, 25, who also was cited in the new indictment. Authorities said Yousef had resided at the same Jersey City, N.J., address once occupied by Salameh. He had not previously been identified in the probe and was not in custody last night. Authorities told Reuter he is believed to have fled, possibly to Egypt. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

The new indictment did not name two other men who have been formally linked to the bombing by federal officials. One informed official said this was because of the volume of work faced by prosecutors involved in the investigation.

Bilal Alkaisi, 26, was arrested last week on a federal complaint that contained circumstantial evidence of his relationship with Ayyad. A fifth man, Ibrahim Elgabrowny, 42, has been charged with obstructing a search of his home in Brooklyn and possessing five fraudulent passports. Elgabrowny, who has pleaded not

guilty, has not been charged with involvement in the bombing. Both men remain in custody.

Salameh, a handyman from Jersey City, was arrested March 4 after investigators found part of a van at the bomb scene and traced it to a rental outlet in Jersey City. Authorities said Salameh rented the van and then reported it stolen several hours after the bombing.

Ayyad, a chemical engineer from Maplewood, N.J., was arrested March 10 after FBI agents searched a rental storage shed allegedly rented by Salameh in New Jersey and found chemicals that authorities said can be mixed to create a high explosive.

Abohalima was arrested after he was released by the Egyptian government. His lawyer has said Abohalima was tortured by Egyptian security officials and questioned about the bombing for more than a week. Since FBI agents brought Abohalima back to New York March 24, there has been no public disclosure of the evidence implicating him in the bombing.

In response to questions about the contents of a letter to the New York Times purportedly threatening further attacks, FBI Director William S. Sessions told the Associated Press: "We have no evidence that a large group in the United States is preparing for a wave of terrorist attacks. However, the magnitude of the World Trade Center attack naturally heightens the level of concern and awareness for all U.S. citizens . . ."

Special correspondent Rachel E. Stassen-Berger in New York contributed to this report.